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Biennial Report

of the

NORTH CAROLINA STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

From July 1, 1956 through June 30, 1958

*"And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not;
I will lead them in paths that they have not known;
I will make darkness light before them."*

—Isaiah xlii, 16.

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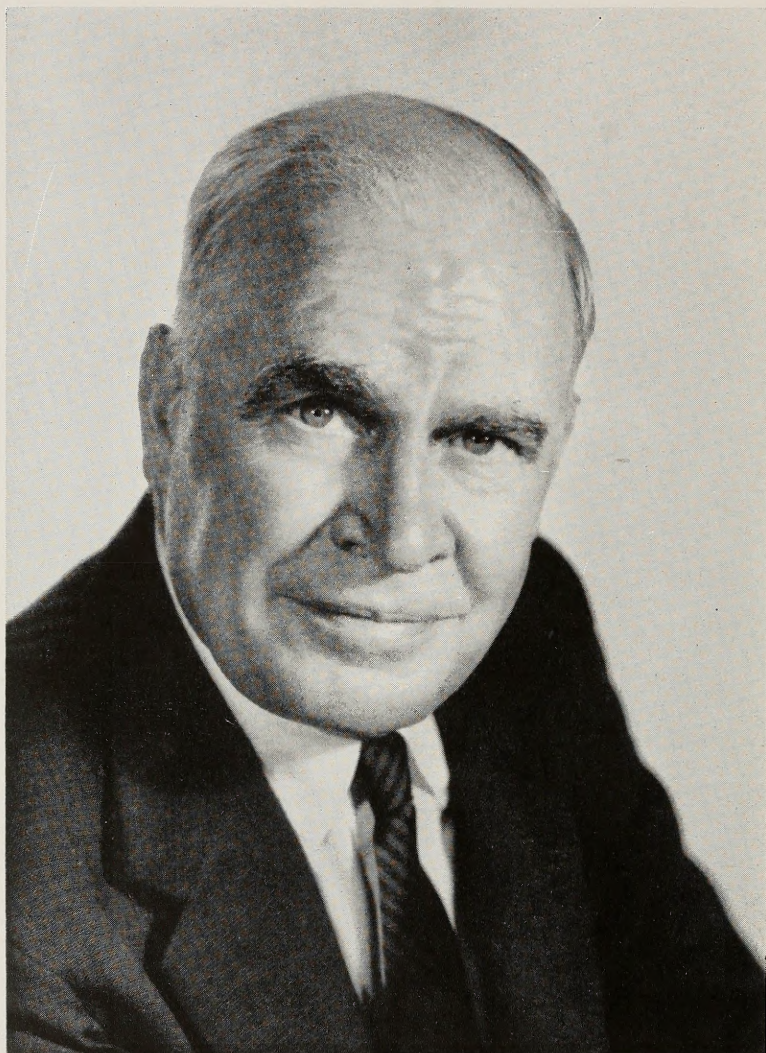
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HONORABLE LUTHER H. HODGES
The Governor of North Carolina

“Work for the Blind is the success story of organized effort and the unselfish work of people from all walks of life. To them, all of us owe a debt of gratitude.”

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

To The Honorable Luther H. Hodges
The Governor of North Carolina
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Governor Hodges:

Pursuant to Chapter 53, Public Laws of 1935, as amended, and subsequent legislation, I have the honor to submit to you the accompanying report of the North Carolina State Commission for the Blind for the biennial period beginning with July 1, 1956 and ending June 30, 1958. This report concerns the management and financial transactions of this Department.

Respectfully submitted,

SAM M. CATHEY, *Chairman*

N. C. State Commission for the Blind

MEMBERS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

(Six Members—Appointed by the Governor)

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DR. HOWARD E. JENSEN, *Chairman*, Executive Committee, Durham, N. C.

MR. H. C. BRADSHAW, Durham, N. C.

MR. FRANK C. KING, Brevard, N. C.

MR. SAM ALFORD, Henderson, N. C.

MR. JOE HOOD, Wilmington, N. C.

(Five—*Ex-Officio* Members—Designated by the Legislature)

MR. J. W. BEACH, *Director, State Employment Service, Division of
Employment Security Commission*, Raleigh, N. C.

MR. EGBERT N. PEELER, *Superintendent, State School for the Blind*,
Raleigh, N. C.

DR. J. W. R. NORTON, *State Health Director, State Board of Health*,
Raleigh, N. C.

COL. CHARLES H. WARREN, *Director, Vocational Rehabilitation*,
Raleigh, N. C.

DR. ELLEN BLACK WINSTON, *Commissioner, State Board of Public Welfare*,
Raleigh, N. C.

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Durham, N. C.

MR. H. C. BRADSHAW
Durham, N. C.

MR. SAM ALFORD
Henderson, N. C.

MR. JOE W. HOOD
Wilmington, N. C.

MR. FRANK C. KING
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MR. O. D. NELSON, *Vice-Chairman*
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MR. V. J. ASHBAUGH, SR.
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MR. H. I. MCDUGLE
Charlotte, N. C.

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MR. DAVID R. MAUNEY, JR.
Cherryville, N. C.

MR. FRANK BROWN
Greenville, N. C.

MR. ED U. HALLFORD
Rocky Mount, N. C.

ADVISORY MEDICAL COMMITTEE

(Surgeons Certified by American Board of Ophthalmology)

- DR. W. BANKS ANDERSON, *Chairman*, Durham, N. C.
DR. V. M. HICKS, *Supervising Ophthalmologist, Aid to the Blind*, Raleigh, N. C.
- DR. PAUL M. ABERNATHY, Burlington, N. C.
DR. ELBERT C. ANDERSON, Wilmington, N. C.
DR. RALPH A. ARNOLD, Durham, N. C.
DR. JAMES W. BIZZELL, Goldsboro, N. C.
DR. H. H. BRIGGS, Asheville, N. C.
DR. JOHN L. ETHERINGTON, Goldsboro, N. C.
DR. H. M. DALTON, Kinston, N. C.
DR. GEORGE W. FISHER, Fayetteville, N. C.
DR. GEORGE D. GADDY, Burlington, N. C.
DR. THOMAS D. GHENT, Charlotte, N. C.
DR. WALTER R. GRAHAM, Charlotte, N. C.
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DR. B. A. HELSABECK, Winston-Salem, N. C.
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DR. HENRY L. SLOAN, SR., Charlotte, N. C.
DR. FRANK C. SMITH, Charlotte, N. C.
DR. WILLIAM P. SPEAS, Winston-Salem, N. C.
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DR. J. DAVID STRATTON, Charlotte, N. C.
DR. EUNICE STOCKWELL, TRYON, N. C.
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DR. CHARLES W. TILLET, Charlotte, N. C.
DR. LARRY TURNER, Durham, N. C.
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DR. JOHN D. WILSEY, Winston-Salem, N. C.
DR. RICHARD WEAVER, Winston-Salem, N. C.
DR. M. WAYNE WOODARD, Asheville, N. C.

INTRODUCTION

The North Carolina State Commission for the Blind was created by Legislative enactment in 1935 and began to function as a state agency in July of the same year. This Biennial Report presents the accomplishments for the period July 1, 1956 — June 30, 1958. The law under which the Commission operates places on it the responsibility of interpreting, administering and supervising an all inclusive program of work for the blind. These activities are accomplished by the three main divisions of the Commission:

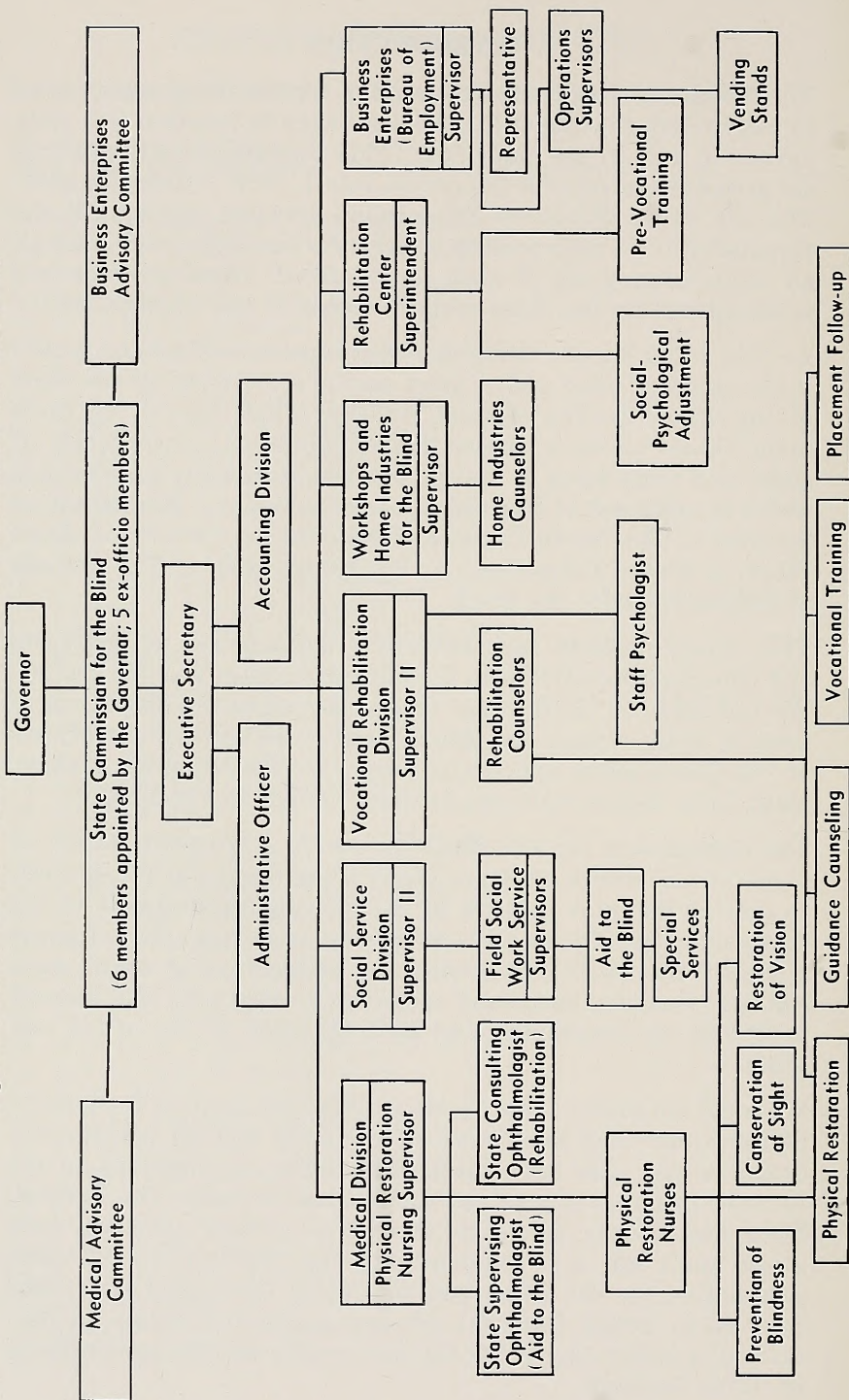
1—The Social Service Division which supervises financial grants to the indigent blind and renders special services to all the blind of the State; 2—The Medical Division which carries on three main phases of work, prevention of blindness, conservation of sight, and restoration of vision; 3— The Rehabilitation Division which is composed of five major parts: a. General Rehabilitation Service; b. The North Carolina Rehabilitation Center for Adult Blind, c. Home Industries; d. Workshops and e. The Bureau of Employment for the Blind.

This report reflects the continuous development of activities and opportunities offered to the blind citizens of North Carolina. We feel that the blind of our State, as well as the thousands of persons with serious eye defects, have profited by the efforts of the Commission, and through the services rendered to them, many have become self-maintaining citizens of the State.

The Commission for the Blind has made a concerted effort to conserve and utilize all State, Federal and community resources, so that as many as possible of the visually handicapped of the State could benefit by the use of such resources. Our program considers the whole man against his background of social, medical, and financial needs and endeavors to help him help himself to fit into his community and take his place in the life of our State.

We could not present this report without comment on the loyalty, perserverence and hard work of the staff and all persons and organizations who have made such noble contributions to the forward progress of good eye care for our citizens. The Federal, State and County agencies, as well as private agencies, have given much aid and co-operation. The North Carolina State Association for the Blind and the North Carolina Lions Clubs have given untold financial aid and unselfish devotion to the cause of a better way of life for the visually handicapped citizens of North Carolina.

Organizational Chart—North Carolina State Commission for the Blind

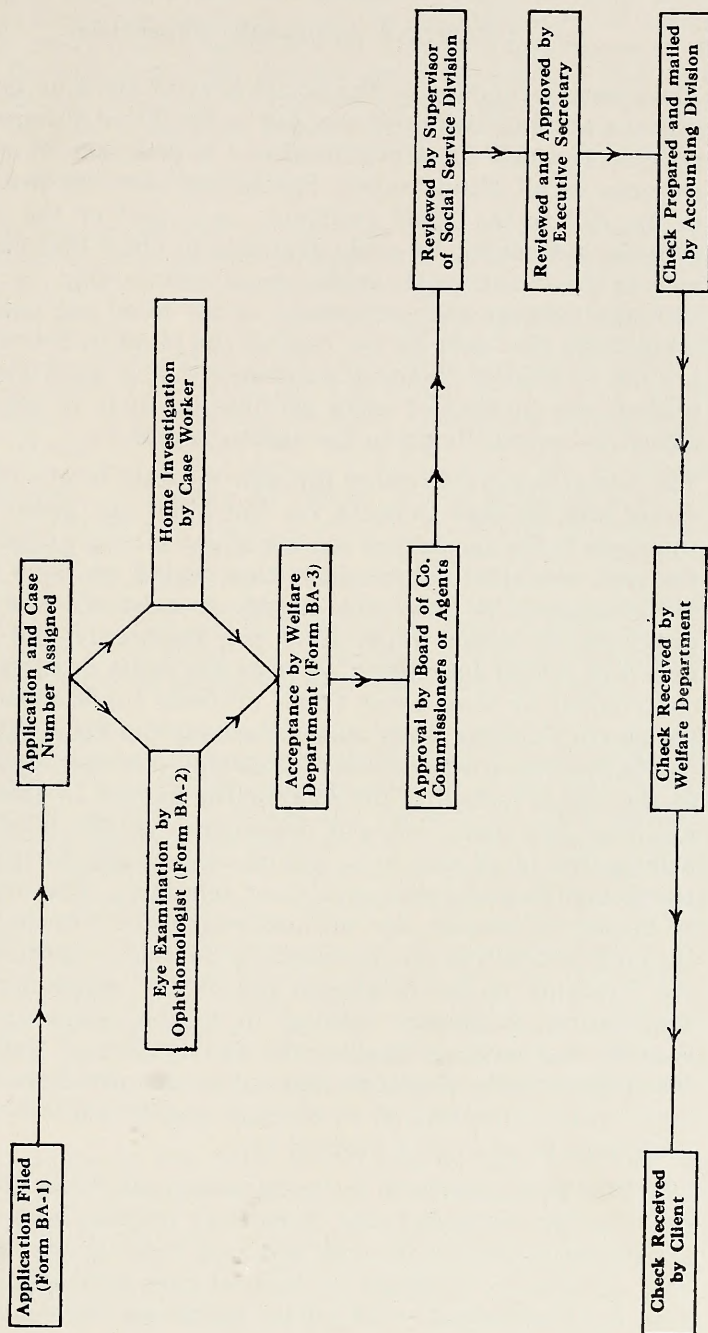


FLOW CHARTS OF APPLICATIONS AND PAYMENTS OF AID TO THE BLIND GRANTS

APPLICANT

COUNTY

COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND



SOCIAL SERVICE DIVISIONCHRISTINE ANDERSON, *Supervisor*

The primary function of the Social Service Division is to supervise the administration of the Aid to the Blind Program and to provide through local organizations a program of specialized services to all blind people. Specialized services are available to the Aid to the Blind recipients as a part of the case work process, but cannot be made available to blind persons who are not in financial need unless local sponsorship is provided. Through surveys and our census of the blind population it has been found that over 50 per cent of the blind in North Carolina are not in need of financial assistance, but a much greater percentage are in need of other services in order to adjust or readjust to normal living in the sighted world.

The Social Service Division through its staff of six field supervisors and 36 case workers for the blind has given increased emphasis to the specialized aspects of our service program during the past biennium. Throughout this period we have attempted to strengthen the programs already in existence and to set up programs in areas which have not previously had a service program. These specialized services are made possible by funds contributed by local Lions Clubs or from funds contributed by the North Carolina State Association for the Blind. The specialized service program includes a full range of case work services to the blind, including instructing the family in techniques of avoiding overprotection and dependence of the blind member, helping the blind person to adjust realistically to the physical, psychological and social aspects of blindness. The blind person is helped to resume his normal responsibilities in the home through instruction and guidance in household tasks, child care, etc. Training in the maximum use of the remaining senses is emphasized; academic training in typing, signature writing, reading and writing Braille; the distribution of Talking Book Machines, Braille literature, and radios; the provision of recreational outlets; instruction in therapy crafts; and where needed, assistance in procuring medical care.

The 1956 amendments to the public assistance titles of the Social Security Act extended and broadened medical care for public assistance recipients through separate Federal sharing in costs paid directly to suppliers of medical care services. Under this plan for hospitalization of public assistance recipients, any Aid

to the Blind recipient may be eligible for hospitalization when it becomes necessary. Authorization for hospitalization of Aid to the Blind recipients is made by the county superintendent of welfare; the rate paid from Federal and State funds is \$6.00 per day per patient; any cost for hospital care in excess of \$6.00 per day will be paid from local funds at the per diem rate agreed upon between the hospital and the county welfare department for public assistance recipients.

A very important activity of the case work staff is assistance to parents of blind preschool children. The usual reaction of the parents upon learning that their child is blind is one of despair, frustration, and fear. These attitudes are expressed in over-protection or complete rejection of the child. If the parents can be helped to accept the blind child and to over-come their negative and often destructive attitudes, the blind child has a much greater chance of developing normally and of becoming a useful adult citizen. It has long been recognized that the foundation of a child's character and future is laid during the preschool years. Patterns of behavior, of feeling, and of thinking acquired during this period are likely to remain with him through his life. The child who is blind is more dependent upon intelligent care and training than other children, and it is essential that special guidance be given parents in meeting these problems. Assistance is given parents in training the blind child to become self-reliant, to avoid blindisms, and other behavior difficulties, and in the selection of suitable toys to stimulate the mind.

The Social Service Division maintains a currently validated census of blind people in the State Office and in each of the six district offices; it is the direct responsibility of the staff of the Social Service Division to locate and register all blind persons. Our sources of referral are medical eye reports — these reports are essential for us to service any case through any division of the agency — social service, rehabilitation, medical; the County Health Departments, County Welfare Departments, School Health Program, continuous and group clinics sponsored by the State Commission for the Blind, hospitals, private individuals, Veterans Administration, State Board of Health — Division of Pre-Mature Infants, applications for Talking Book Machines, Lions Clubs, and other civic clubs and organizations. This information is vitally essential in planning and administering programs of both service and assistance for the blind.

Increased emphasis has been placed during this biennium on interpretation of the many services available to the blind in North Carolina by the field supervisors and the case workers for the blind. During the biennium, 1520 talks were made to local civic groups and over radio in an effort to interpret the services available to the blind within the State through the State Commission for the Blind and other interested sponsoring

groups. This type of public interpretation affords an excellent opportunity for discussing local problems and local programs relating to the blind; it also serves a dual purpose of creating local interest and local support in promoting the welfare of blind citizens in each community throughout the State.

One of our most interesting services to the blind during the biennium was the distribution of 987 Talking Book Machines. This is a special type of phonograph which plays records of books of all kinds — Bible, biography, fiction, history, poetry, gardening, poultry raising, etc. The Talking book is doubtless the greatest single free service to the blind in the nation today. The North Carolina State Commission for the Blind has been designated by the Library of Congress as the lending agency to make these machines available to the blind in North Carolina; and the North Carolina State Association pays the postage cost of distribution. The case workers for the blind instruct and assist the blind reader in learning to use the Talking Book Machine, and assist in procuring library service.

The efforts of the staff of the Social Service Division have been sharply focused upon providing for all blind and visually handicapped persons the services necessary for the development of a useful, well-adjusted and happy life. Our program operates on the premise that many blind persons can become useful members of society by developing the skills and attitudes which permit them to accommodate to the seeing world.

Our process in providing the many types of specialized services to help the blind in developing useful, well-adjusted and happy lives is reflected in the following Charts:

CHART I

SPECIALIZED SERVICES GIVEN BY CASEWORKERS FOR THE BLIND IN COOPERATION WITH LIONS CLUBS AND THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

	Biennium 1954-56	Biennium 1956-58
1. Home Visits -----	27,570	33,910
2. Assistance in personal adjustment to blindness, assistance in learning to utilize to a maximum degree the other senses and assistance in developing effective ways of performing without sight the ordinary activities of living -----	18,974	14,502
3. Assistance in Family Adjustment—Instructing the family in ways of helping the blind person to adjust to blindness—Assisting the blind person in resuming his or her normal responsibilities in the home through instruction in child care, performance of household duties, etc. -----	10,154	8,830

4. Instruction in Therapy Crafts—Hobby Crafts—sewing, weaving, chair caning, mat making, leather work, basketry, crocheting, knitting, gardening, raising pets and farm animals, etc.	4,564	3,877
5. Academic Work—Reading and writing Braille, typing, signature writing, referral to State School for the Blind, referrals to classes for partially sighted, distribution of sight-saving material, information regarding admission to Rehabilitation Center for the Blind	13,266	10,483
6. Medical Care—This includes planning for the treatment, transportation and follow-up work in cooperation with the Medical Division	32,745	28,784
7. Recreation—Plays, movies, picnics, parties, distribution of gift radios	15,005	13,345
8. Miscellaneous Services	7,152	7,563
9. Talking Book Machines distributed	964	987

Both State and Federal laws provide that any applicant or recipient for the Aid to the Blind may appeal to the State Commission for the Blind, requesting a hearing if he is dissatisfied because of the following reasons: If his application is not taken; If his application is not acted upon within thirty-one days; if his application is rejected; if he is dissatisfied with the amount of his monthly payments; if he is dissatisfied when his payment is changed or stopped; or if he is found eligible and no payment is made within thirty-one days. The State agency upon receipt of such appeal must afford a fair hearing.

During 1956-58 seven requests for hearings were received; the following tabulations show the number and action taken by the State Commission for the Blind:

Requests received	7
Total handled	6
Requests withdrawn or disposed of by other means, such as adjustment by County prior to hearing	1
Disposed of by decision of the State Commission in favor of appellant	1
County action upheld	5

The issues involved in the appeals were budgetary deficiency, income or property of appellant's family and income or property of appellant.

Complete informational data on the number of persons receiving Aid to the Blind payments, the number terminated or rejected, and the age, race, and range of payments is given in Chart II, An Analysis of Aid to the Blind Acceptances—Rejections—Terminations—for the biennial period, July 1, 1956—June 30, 1958.

CHART II

AN ANALYSIS OF AID TO THE BLIND ACCEPTANCES—REJECTIONS—TERMINATIONS

1. Number of persons receiving AB payments June 30, 1956	4,932
2. Number of applications accepted July 1, 1956-June 30, 1958	1,704
3. Total number of persons receiving AB July 1, 1956-June 30, 1958	6,636
4. Number of AB cases closed July 1, 1956-June 30, 1958	1,617

Reasons for Closing:

a. Death	779
b. Employment of recipient	51
c. Employment of the other person in home	51
d. Receipt of Servicemen's allotment	16
e. Increased support from persons outside home	15
f. Increased resources of persons' in home	88
g. Originally Ineligible under State plan	6
h. Vision restored	153
i. Soliciting alms	2
j. Increased resources	39
k. Admitted to institution	97
l. Receipt of other type of Public or private aid	11
m. Loss of residence	42
n. Other	267
5. Number of AB recipients June 30, 1958	5,019
6. Number of AB applications rejected July 1, 1956-June 30, 1958	413

Reasons for Rejection:

a. Ineligible on basis of vision	143
b. Ineligible on basis of residence	8
c. Other resources	221
d. Other	41
7. North Carolina average monthly AB payment June 1956	\$41.27
8. North Carolina average monthly AB payment June 1958	\$45.11
9. Range of monthly AB payments:	

	June, 1956	June, 1958
a. \$ 5.00—\$ 9.99	17	23
b. 10.00— 14.99	89	78
c. 15.00— 19.99	141	141
d. 20.00— 24.99	245	149
e. 25.00— 29.99	359	244
f. 30.00— 34.99	714	434
g. 35.00— 39.99	591	700
h. 40.00— 44.99	615	537
i. 45.00— 49.99	447	567
j. 50.00— 54.99	367	428
k. 55.00— 59.99	1,025	381
l. 60.00—		1,337

10. Age of AB applicants July 1, 1956-June 30, 1958

a.	0- 5	-----	30
b.	6-18	-----	204
c.	19-29	-----	123
d.	30-44	-----	222
e.	45-64	-----	454
f.	65-Over	-----	671

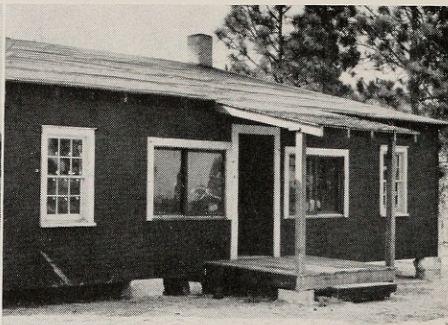
11. Race of AB applicants July 1, 1956-June 30, 1958

a.	White	-----	954
b.	Negro	-----	741
c.	Indian	-----	9

The chart, Appendix I, shows known number of blind in the State, 11,239; data given by counties, age, race, sex, etc.



1—Case Worker Assisting Mother of Blind Child in the Selection of Suitable Toys. 2—Blind Child Learns to Operate His Record Player. A Wonderful Gift for Any Child.



1—Before and After Scenes of Home of Blind Family Rebuilt by Hamlet Lions Club and N. C. State Association for the Blind. 2—Braille Checker Boards Presented by Scotland Neck Lions Club Afford Hours of Pleasure. 3—Case Worker Assists Mother of Blind Child in Care and Training of Child



1—Gastonia Lions Club Furnishes Clothing and Baggage for a Youth Going to school for the Blind 2—Lions Clubs Furnish Recreation for the Blind and Visually Handcapped.

MEDICAL DIVISION

ANNIE RUTH PENNY, *Supervisor*

The Commission for the Blind is a service agency. The physical restoration nurses are in constant contact with clients, agencies and civic clubs in offering and arranging for medical eye care.

The Medical Division of the Commission for the Blind has three primary objectives: prevention of blindness, sight conservation, and restoration of vision. Means used to reach these objectives are through education and service. Education is approached by disseminating information about prevention of blindness and eye hygiene to clients, professional, civic, and lay groups. Physical restoration nurses and eye physicians endeavor through group eye clinics to use the techniques of teaching and the conference method to interpret eye diseases and prevention of blindness practices to clients, public health nurses and health officers. Films and pamphlets are used in hospital and group eye clinics, civic clubs and other lay groups.

Services include eye examinations, treatment, and surgery for medically indigent persons who can be certified on the basis of need through the one hundred departments of public welfare.

The Commission cooperates and coordinates the interests and efforts of all public and private agencies and civic groups. The degree of success of the program depends upon the interest of every citizen; the cooperation of the physicians, civic clubs, and the local health and welfare departments.

The three medical schools provide free eye examinations for persons certified on the basis of need by welfare departments. Recommendations are forwarded from these hospitals to the Commission for the Blind for authorizations for surgery, hospitalization and treatment.

The Memorial Hospital Eye Clinic in Chapel Hill has provided space for a Visual Aids Clinic, which is held once each month. The North Carolina State Association for the Blind has provided equipment. The North Carolina State Commission of the Blind and interested eye physicians cooperate in an effort to determine to what extent this type of service can benefit those persons who have serious visual handicaps. Interest in the Visual Aids Clinic has increased in the last two years. The clinic operates at full capacity, and applications for appointments continue to come in.

The Variety Club Eye Clinic in Charlotte and the Asheville Lions Club Eye Clinic provide a continuous program of medical services. Eye clinics are held throughout the state in counties where medical facilities are not available. The frequency of these clinics—weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly, depends upon the need, facilities available, local interest and cooperation. The Commis-

sion uses all local and community public services, including services of local eye physicians wherever available.

In the period from July 1, 1956 through June 30, 1958, 51,422 indigent persons were given eye examinations; 6,888 were given eye treatments; 2,586 were furnished eye operations; and 29,153 pairs of glasses were fitted. Since there is no item in the agency's medical budget for glasses, most of the 29,153 pairs of glasses were purchased by the three hundred or more Lions Clubs, the North Carolina State Association for the Blind and the School Health Program.

It has been estimated by the best authorities that nearly fifty per cent of blindness is preventable. It is our hope that with the improvement in medical techniques and practices, we will be able to allay and reduce the fifty per cent of preventable blindness.

Glaucoma, according to the Philadelphia Wills Hospital physicians, is the greatest single cause of blindness in the United States. They report that forty-three thousand Americans are blind from glaucoma, and another fifteen thousand have lost one eye. One million more persons are threatened with blindness, and at least five hundred thousand of them do not know that they have this dread disease. They also tell us that effective and early treatment can reduce eighty per cent of blindness from glaucoma.

The North Carolina eye physicians are deeply concerned about discovering new cases of glaucoma in the interest of prevention of blindness. The eye physicians in the largest city in the state held a Glaucoma Detection Clinic at a hospital in the spring of 1958. Eye tension tests were taken on all persons who came to the clinic. Ten certified ophthalmologists in the city each gave a half day to the project. The local public health nurses participated by assisting the physicians. The director of the North Carolina Committee of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, acted as hostess and promoted the clinic through radio, newspaper, and television publicity. 750 persons had eye tension tests, and out of this number, 42 suspected glaucoma cases were referred for further study.

Many physicians recommend that an eye tension test to detect glaucoma be included as a part of every general physical examination, especially for persons past the age of forty. It has been estimated that one to two per cent of persons in this age group have beginning or advanced glaucoma.

Education, service, and research are effective weapons; and if used tirelessly and continuously, preventable blindness can be reduced substantially and many blinding eye diseases conquered.

SERVICES OFFERED BY MEDICAL DIVISION

- I. Medical eye examinations and treatments.
 - A. Physicians' offices—by appointment through local departments of public welfare or special arrangement.
 - B. Group medical eye clinics.
 1. Arranged in counties where adequate medical eye care is not available.
 2. Children and adults are admitted on a needs basis, certification made by local departments of public welfare.
 3. Clinical eye examinations made by eye physicians.
 4. Participating agencies.
 - a. Local welfare departments.
 - (1) Certify on needs basis.
 - (2) Take applications for clinic services.
 - (3) Give active support to clinic by assisting in planning for physical setup and assisting in providing for clerical help.
 - (4) Plan jointly with health departments for transportation.
 - b. Health departments.
 - (1) School screening for eye defects.
 - (2) Furnish list of names of children to welfare departments for certification on the basis of need.
 - (3) Public health personnel assist in operation of the clinics.
 - (4) Assist welfare departments in planning transportation to and from the clinics for services.
 - c. Commission for the Blind.

Area physical restoration nurses are responsible for the following services:

 - (1) Over-all joint planning for group eye clinics.
 - (2) Securing the services of eye physicians to do eye examinations.
 - (3) Securing the services of opticians to furnish frames, take frame measurements, copy doctor's prescriptions for glasses, have lenses ground, furnish glasses' cases and see that glasses are properly made up and delivered.
 - (4) A worker is present at the clinic for the purpose of co-ordinating and supervising the over-all functioning.
- C. Sustaining medical eye clinics.
 1. Financing is shared by Lions Clubs, State Association for the Blind, Variety Clubs and the State Commission for the Blind.

2. Name and location:

Anson County, Wadesboro	Moore County, Carthage
The Asheville Lions Club	Nantahala Lions Eye Clinic, Murphy—serves Clay, Cherokee, Swain and Graham Counties
Eye Clinic, Mission Hospital serves Western North Carolina	Richmond County, Rockingham
Burke County, Morganton	Scotland County, Laurinburg
Cleveland County, Shelby	Rutherford County, Rutherfordton
Guilford County, Greensboro and High Point	Sampson County, Clinton
Halifax County, Halifax	Variety Club Eye Clinic, Charlotte
Haywood County, Waynesville	Wake County, Raleigh
Henderson County, Hendersonville	Wilkes County, Wadesboro
Jackson County, Sylva	Tuberculosis Sanatoriums:
Johnston County, Smithfield	Black Mountain, McCain and Wilson
Macon County, Franklin	Visual Aids Clinic, Chapel Hill

3. Hospitals furnishing eye clinic services:

- North Carolina Memorial Hospital, Chapel Hill, N. C.
- North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem, N. C.
- Duke Hospital, Durham, N. C.
- McPherson Hospital, Durham, N. C.

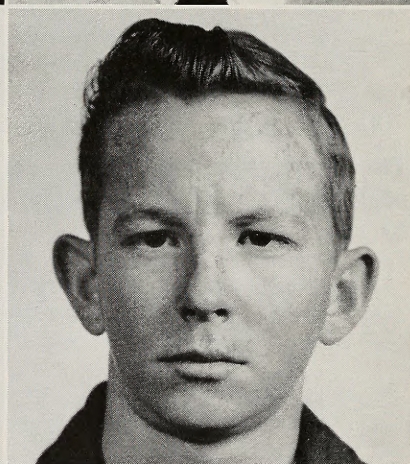
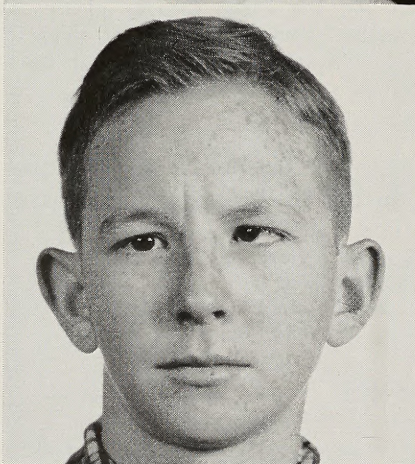
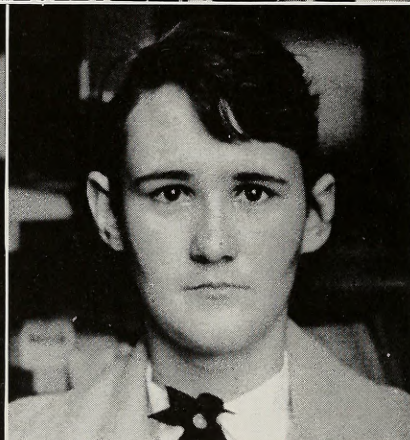
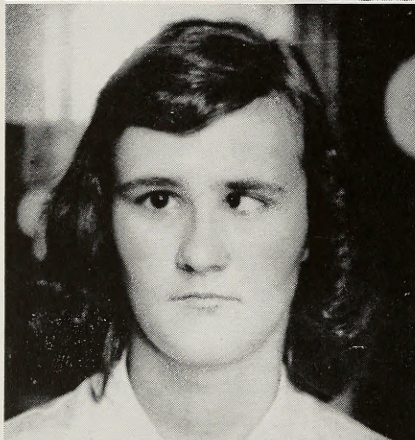
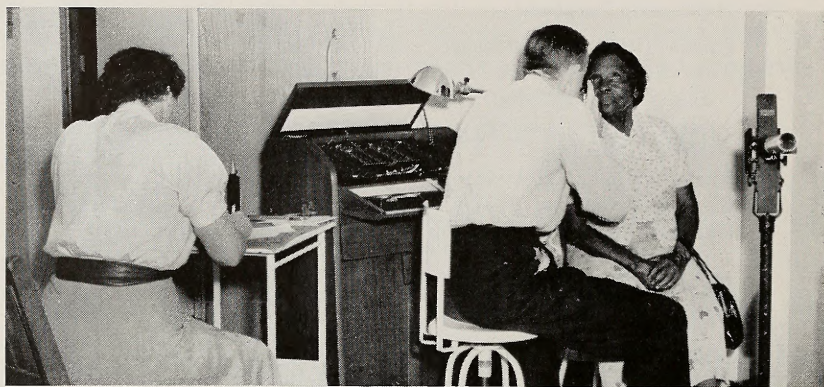
II. Follow-up work

- A. Surgery is done by eye physicians who are American Board Diplomates or eye physicians who are accepted applicants for American Board examinations.
- B. Hospitalization and surgery financed by the Commission for the Blind.

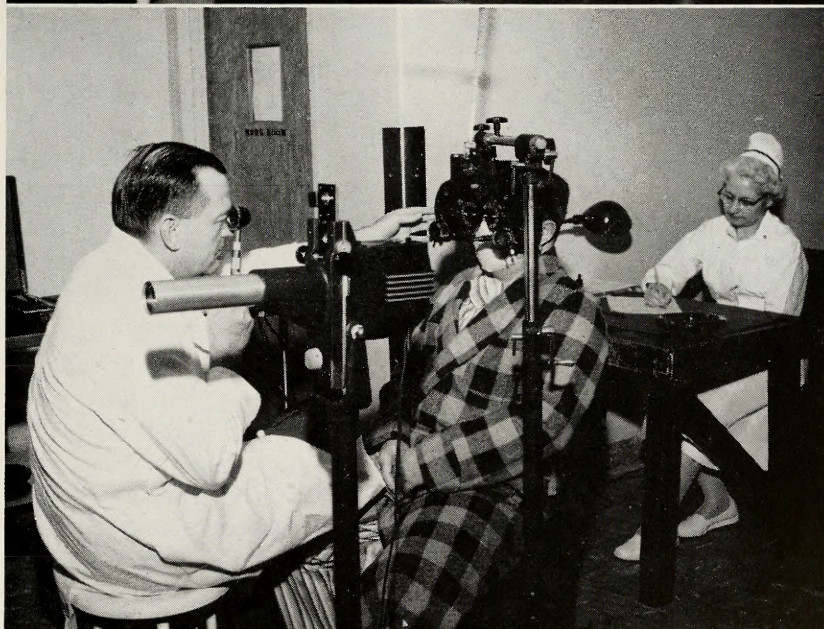
III. Glasses: The State Commission for the Blind secures glasses at special rates from wholesale optical companies for local agencies and Lions Clubs. Glasses are paid for locally and by the North Carolina State Association for the Blind.

IV. Sponsorship of Sight-Saving Classes.

The Chart, Appendix II, reveals data on the 51,422 indigent persons examined by eye physicians during the biennium; data given by counties.



1—Scene from Asheville Lions Club Eye Clinic 2 & 3—Before and After Squint Surgery



Scenes in Eye Clinics Johnston County and T. B. Sanatorium, Wilson



Blind Children Attending the Summer Institute, Learn by Supervised Play

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

The Medical and Social Service Divisions offer special services to North Carolina children. These services include:

- General Medical Examinations
- Medical Eye Examinations
- Eye Surgery and Treatment
- Medical Eye Care Follow-up
- Consultation

Home visits to encourage parents to take advantage of opportunities to send blind children to the State School for the Blind, to secure medical eye care, to obtain educational materials and Talking Book Machines.

Participation in the Joint School Health Program

Referral to Sight Saving Classes

Referral to the State School for the Blind

Services to the Pre-School Child:

Eye Examinations

Surgery

Treatment

Pre-School Institute for Mothers of Blind Children:

The sixth annual Conference for Mothers of Pre-school Blind Children was held in 1957. For a number of years, leaders in work for the blind in North Carolina have recognized the need and importance of having such a conference. The officials of the North Carolina State School for the Blind and the North Carolina State Commission for the Blind, the two State agencies whose legal responsibility is work for the blind, had conferred, discussed and tried to find funds in their budgets for this undertaking. No State funds were available and so the summer conference remained an unmet need of the total program for the blind. Early in 1950 the North Carolina State Association for the Blind was approached and the proposed project and its importance outlined.

The North Carolina State Association is a non-profit, lay group whose sole reason for existence is furthering work for the blind state-wide. This Association was organized in 1934 by prominent Lions and other interested groups and individuals to work for a state-sponsored agency which would devote full time to the work for the blind and visually handicapped. Its efforts met with success and in March, 1935, the North Carolina State Commission for the Blind was created by legislative enactment. With the background of such achievement in work for the blind, the North Carolina State Association was sympathetic to the need and made funds available for the conference; thus, the first summer conference was held in 1950.

The conference is, therefore, jointly sponsored by the North Carolina State Association for the Blind, the North Carolina State School for the Blind and the North Carolina State Commission for the Blind. The School furnishes the physical set-up,

staff and supervision; the Commission furnishes the staff to locate the pre-school blind children in the State, to report these and to work with the mothers who are scheduled to attend, also, the Commission staff is used during the Conference and the North Carolina State Association for the Blind furnishes funds for maintenance and transportation for the mothers and babies, buys books, toys and pays for staff members.

PRE-SCHOOL OPERATIVE SERVICES—1956-58

Squint Operations	130
Congenital Cataracts	47
Congenital Glaucoma	24
Enucleations	35
Chalazion Removed	1
Ptosis	14
Treatment and other defects	86
Total	<u>337</u>

MADELINE P. McCRARY



Before



After

Squint Surgery



Blind Children Learn to Participate in Group Activities

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DIVISION

Rehabilitation is the restoration of disabled persons to the fullest physical, mental, vocational, and economic usefulness of which they are capable. Rehabilitation has proved its worth not only to the individual but to the taxpayer.

Rehabilitation accepts a man as he is; and through various services, such as counseling, guidance, physical restoration, adjustment and vocational training, prepares him for and places him in employment.

The economic value of rehabilitation to the individual and to the nation can be measured by the dollar standard, but the social values gained by the individual and society cannot be evaluated. Rehabilitation gives a new life to the handicapped person who in turn makes his contribution to his community, his state and his nation. Rehabilitation can change his status from a recipient of tax funds to an employed person paying taxes.

The Rehabilitation Program of the Commission for the Blind, with its multiple services, is carried out through the following five co-ordinated major units:

1. Six district offices providing case finding, counseling and guidance, physical restoration, vocational training, placement and other indicated services required in preparing blind people for employment.
2. The Rehabilitation Center for the Blind providing adjustment to blindness and pre-vocational training for newly blinded adults.
3. Five workshops providing training for self-employment and jobs for blind people wanting sheltered employment.
4. Home Industries providing training for blind people in the production of saleable articles made in the home and creating sales outlets for these products.
5. Bureau of Employment for the Blind providing training and employment in vending stand operation.

I. GENERAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

BRITT L. GREEN, *Supervisor.*

The First World War brought into sharp focus the necessity for retraining disabled veterans. The success of this program emphasized the need for rehabilitation services for the thousands of handicapped civilians who could become self-supporting if given proper physical restoration and vocational training. Rehabilitation services began in 1920, but it was not until 1943 that the Congress enacted into law a bill sponsored by Congressman Graham Barden of North Carolina. Mr Barden was co-author of the Barden-LaFollette Act which became known as Public Law 113.

Public Law 113 was a Bill of Rights for the handicapped of the nation and initiated a nation-wide program of rehabilitation services for disabled people with employment handicaps. The Congress made funds available for the work, the North Carolina General Assembly matched these Federal funds, and for the first time in the history of America, the handicapped had the doors of work opportunities opened wide.

The Federal government recognized the value of the rehabilitation of handicapped citizens and the need for further expansion of rehabilitation services. To meet this need, Public Law 565 was passed in 1954. Under the provisions of this law additional Federal funds were made available to broaden the scope and basis of the program.

General rehabilitation involves certain processes, the most important of these are: (1) Case finding, (2) Counseling and guidance, (3) Training, (4) Placement and (5) Post placement supervision.

Case Finding: All the services available to the visually handicapped cannot be provided until the person has been found. The first job of rehabilitation is to find the individual so that he may accept or reject the services that are offered. After a person is found, he must be interviewed and complete evaluation made in order to determine whether he has rehabilitation potentialities. Rehabilitation looks at the Total Man in the light of his employability: physical ability to work, mental and educational ability to learn, personality adequate to hold a job, and skill to produce a service which someone is willing to purchase.

Counseling and guidance: The aim of vocational counseling is to help the client in his choice of a suitable employment objective, in planning his preparation for such employment and in achieving those attitudes which will bring success and satisfaction in his job. Counseling is based on an understanding of the "whole" individual with individual differences and the fact that the client is the one to be served. It is he who is to be made self-maintaining by the processes of rehabilitation. Every effort is made to remove

or to meliorate his handicap. After a client has been accepted by the counselor, the possibility of physical restoration is the first rehabilitation service considered. The role of the counselor in rehabilitation is most important. He is dealing with a human life, and only counselors trained in the techniques of the rehabilitation process should be entrusted with so great a task.

Training: When an employment objective has been determined, a plan is set up to provide necessary training, such as adjustment to blindness, stand operation, workshop, industry and professional occupations requiring college degrees. The counselor is responsible for the type and quality of training secured. He keeps constant watch to see that the client receives training which will fit him for remunerative employment.

Placement: Rehabilitation processes must lead to employment—the ultimate goal of all rehabilitation aims—job placement which will allow the handicapped individual to use all of his abilities and to achieve the highest development of which he is capable. Through the years, it has been conclusively proven that blind persons do not want to beg; that begging is an insult to any self-respecting blind person. It has been generally conceded that blind people are capable of working and earning a living. Finding new and better employment opportunities for blind people is a challenge to the rehabilitation worker and the mutual responsibility of a progressive society.

Post placement supervision: The last major step in the rehabilitation process is post-placement supervision. After a blind person has been placed, he needs guidance and supervision to some degree to insure continuing progress. The rehabilitation counselor visits the blind person at regular intervals as long as necessary.

Psychological Services and Research

WILLIAM M. CANNON, *Supervisor*

Psychological services and research are crucial factors in the broad concept of rehabilitation. Through the application of psychological principals, we come to understand the clients with whom we work; and the wise use of research has proved itself to be the key to an ever improving program of education, training, and employment of blind people.

Since 1945 psychological services have been provided by the North Carolina State Commission for the Blind. These services consist of: Testing and screening new referrals for rehabilitation services, diagnostic testing, job placement testing, psychological counseling, psychological and adjustment research, agency-wide staff consultation services and research projects on a national and international scope designed to provide improved and more effective programs for blind people as a consequence of investigation and inter-agency communication.

These functions are carried on in various ways including mobile Psychological Clinics held throughout the state, clinics at the North Carolina Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, and by individual appointments in the central offices of the Commission in Raleigh.

The primary testing areas of most importance in working with blind persons are those which lead to the understanding of intellectual capacity, manual dexterity, personality structure, and vocational interest.

At the present time, the Psychology Service is conducting extensive research in developing normative data for many existing tests which have been originally standardized with sighted populations but which can be used diagnostically with blind people. This often requires modification of testing methods, and consequently the development of new norms.

In addition to this general research, experimentation is being carried out in the field of developing new tests and testing methods particularly in the area of vocational interests. This work deserves special mention because it is receiving concentrated attention as a project of national interest at the present time. It is believed that through the application of experimental and empirical methods, measures can be developed which can provide a picture of "true" vocational interest which are relatively free of personal and cultural influences. One such influence is the real danger of job opportunities for the blind becoming stereo-



Trained by Rehabilitation, Blind Man Operates Small Store.

typed and limited to include only a restricted number of opportunities. It is hoped that this new research will enable us to discover the vocational interests of each client in a manner independent of presently recognized jobs so that we may experience an ever-expanding world of employment opportunities for those with reduced vision. Such techniques would assist in avoiding the placement of blind persons in jobs to which they are not suited.

Plans are being made for the expansion of psychological services and research so that an increasing number of clients may be aided in their general welfare through the application of modern adjustive methods. The facilitation of diagnostic methods, counseling, and placement techniques, so as to avoid costly observational delays through the application of tests and psychological measurements, will mean direct and indirect financial savings to the state plus a very real benefit to the individual blind person whom we serve in terms of lifelong satisfaction on the job.

STATISTICS ON THE 742 BLIND PERSONS REHABILITATED INTO EMPLOYMENT, PERIOD JULY 1, 1956, THROUGH JUNE 30, 1958

Number of Males	407
Number of Females	335
Number of White	507
Number of Negro	235
Average Education at Survey	6.3
Average Age when Accepted	46.9



Man Trained and Furnished Equipment by Rehabilitation Services now Maintains Beef Cattle Herd.

Average number of Months Cases were Serviced	23.5
Average number of Months in Training	2.2
Average Cost of Case Services (does not include administration) : ..	\$664.38
Average Weekly Wage when Accepted as a Rehabilitation Client: \$	4.42
Average Weekly Wage when Closed as employed and rehabilitated: \$	27.08

**STATISTICS ON THE OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS OF THE 742 BLIND
PERSONS REHABILITATED. PERIOD JULY 1, 1956 THROUGH
JUNE 30, 1958**

Type of Job	Number	Per Cent
Professional and Semi-professional	29	3.9
Managerial and sales	127	17.1
Farmers	92	12.4
Skilled Workers	20	2.7
Semi-Skilled	80	10.8
Unskilled Workers	104	14.0
Service Jobs	31	4.2
Craft Workers	20	2.7
Home Makers	239	32.2
Totals	742	100

MADELINE P. MCCRARY



*Man Trained and Furnished Services by Rehabilitation is Employed
as a Dairy Farmer*



1—Receptionist at Radio Station 2—Operator of Police Radio in Sheriff's Office 3—Man Trained and Given Equipment by Rehabilitation Now Operates His Own Business

THE NORTH CAROLINA REHABILITATION CENTER*HELEN CUTTING, Superintendent*

Students at Work in the Enlarged Wood Work Shop, Rehabilitation Center

The North Carolina Rehabilitation center was created by legislative enactment in 1945 and began operation in November 1945. The establishment of the Rehabilitation Center for adult blind persons was the fulfillment of a long cherished idea and the realization of a great unmet need in the total program of work for the blind. The orientation and adjustment to blindness which the center program provides for the adult blind has enabled may blind persons to enter employment and become self-supporting.

From November 1945 until August 1952, the Center was housed in several temporary buildings owned by other agencies. In August 1952, it moved into its own new and modern building, located at Butner, North Carolina. This building provided space for the administrative offices, dining hall, classrooms, library, auditorium and two dormitories. There were no staff houses until 1953 when the General Assembly made funds available for this purpose; these were completed in 1956. All these facilities have made possible more adequate training of blind persons who enter the Center as trainees. North Carolina can now offer a multiple, comprehensive service program complete with pre-vocational and adjustment opportunities.

During the present biennium, two rather small but most essential improvements were made at the Center. One was an addition to the woodworking shop which is an important phase of training. The other improvement was the construction of a warehouse area in the existing buildings. This was most necessary for storage of bulk food supplies. The administration building and student dormitories were repainted for the first time since 1952 when they were constructed.

The enlarged shop facilities enabled the Center to offer shop training to more students, and, also give more specialized training to those displaying marked skill in this type of work.

The center has always taken some out-of-state students when there was room. This year there were several from other states who received training, also, one blind woman from South Africa. She was a special student who was to return to her home to work in the program for the blind in Africa.

The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc., through the interest and untiring efforts of Mrs. W. F. Franck of Durham, has started a "Fragrance Garden" in a large plot directly in front of the Administration Building. This is a long term project and will be developed over a period of years. Mrs. Franck and the garden clubs of Durham originated the idea of planting the "Fragrance Garden" so the blind could enjoy the perfume of the flowers in their own garden. As the project developed, the idea was presented to the Garden Club of North Carolina which accepted it as a state project. This garden is already a joyful place, but when it is completed, it will be a show place commanding the attention of all who seek the beauty of nature.

The Center has many interested and helpful friends who visit it and who make contributions to enhance the beauty of the grounds and the recreational facilities. The man-made lake is well stocked with fish, and there is a constant stream of people coming to the lake during the season.

The Lions Clubs in the vicinity of the Center come to the Center often, and some Clubs from a distance also make visits. A visit to the Center is the best interpretation of what really happens when a blind person enters as a trainee or student and pursues the training courses. It is impossible to describe the changes that take place, but it is most gratifying to see that same student finish his training at the Center and either enter vocational training or employment.

The basic courses offered at the Center are fairly well standardized after our years of experience; however, this does not mean that a new one will not be initiated to meet a need. This biennium we do have a new course, ceramics. A potter's wheel has been secured and other essential equipment. Classes have created much interest and some real ability has been uncovered and is being

developed. The students are getting a chance to express their creative ability in making many types of ceramic pieces. The other courses are: 1. Orientation to the physical setup of the Center and surroundings, 2. Travel techniques, 3. Adjustment, 4. Continuation of counseling, 5. Psychological tests and measurements, 6. Personality adjustment, 7. Stand training and employment practices, 8. Basic courses in personal hygiene, table etiquette and demands of daily living, 9. Home economics and housekeeping, 10. Academic courses such as English, spelling, arithmetic, Braille, typing and transcription, 11. Craft courses, 12. Sewing, 13. Shop work, 14. Electrical appliance repair, 15. Laundry courses, 16. Cooking classes for men and women.

The following charts present statistics on the biennial period and will give some idea as to the number of students, age, sex, etc. attending the Center during this biennium.

STATISTICS—July 1, 1956-June 30, 1958 on Students at the Rehabilitation Center.

Total Number of Students 163
Number of Counties

Represented	60
Average Age	33.5
Males	103
Females	60
White	102
Negro	61
Rural	74
Urban	89
Single	80
Married	55
Other	28
Average Education	7.9
Average I Q.	91

Average Number of Months at the Rehabilitation Center	5.1
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Age at Onset of Blindness:

0-5	77
6-18	12
19-29	16
30-44	37
45-65	21
Over 65	0

Causes of Blindness:

Disease	147
Accident	16
Congenital	51
Inherited	15

Degree of Vision—Present

Total blindness—Both Eyes	19
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Blind One Eye—Partial

Vision Other	32
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Partial Vision Each Eye	112
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Student Entered Center:

Sources of Support When

Family	101
Public Relief	39
Wage	9
Pension	10
Other	4

Previous Employment:

Teacher	1
Cashier	1
Merchant	2
Inspector	1
Salesman	2
Mechanic	1
Clerical	8
Farmer	10
Stand Operator	1
Textile	3
Service Job	5
Farm Work	8
Domestic	4
Logger	1
Semi-Skilled	7
Practical Nurse	1
Nurse's Aide	1
Laborer	51

Housework	10
Housewife	9
Family Worker	2
No Job	29
Odd Jobs	4
Embalmer	1
Number Employed	41
Number in Training	62
Number Unemployed	57
Left State	2
Transfer to Vocational Rehabilitation	1

Types of Employment of the 41 Employed:	
Own Business	3
Stand Operator	15
Sales	4
Home Manager	2
Housekeeper	1
Housewife	4
Family Worker	4
Janitor	2
Laborer	3
Workshop	2
Service Job	1

In the 1954-56 *Biennial*, we presented statistics on the employment status of the 159 students who attended the Center during during this period. In June 1958, we made a follow-up study which disclosed the following facts:

June 1956-June 1958

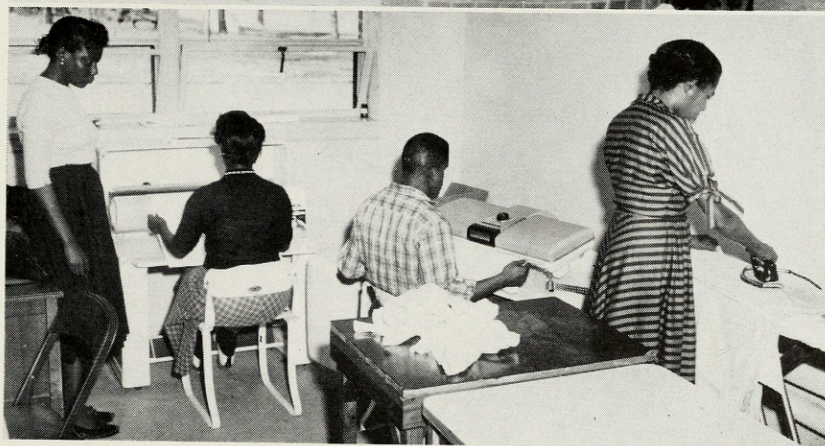
Number of Students	159	
	1956	1958
Number Employed:	34	113
Number in Training:	52	5
Number Unemployed:	71	35
	Left State	1
	Deceased	5

With this follow-up study, we found, as time went on, that a great many more were placed in employment and we feel that is more evidence that the training at the Center is worthwhile in a total Rehabilitation Program.

Madeline P. McCrary



Learning the Art of Cooking, Rehabilitation Center



1—Student Government Council 2—The Fragrance Garden 3—Teaching Laundry Courses

HOME INDUSTRIES

LAURA E. MERCHANT

Supervisor of Workshops and Home Industries

The Home Industries Department is one of the major units of the Rehabilitation Division and through it, services are provided for the home bound blind persons. These services may include training, training materials and/or equipment.

The three home industries counselors visit all cases referred to them to determine eligibility and feasibility for rehabilitation as a home industry client. Each blind person so referred is given an opportunity to develop any skill he might possess.

There are 80 home bound persons with regular earnings, some eligible for Social Security benefits. Many others are working as much as their limited abilities will allow as many of these have other handicaps in addition to blindness and are not physically able to produce on a full time basis.

Lions Clubs and other interested civic groups sponsored 79 sales of the articles made by the home bound blind. Other sales sources are to gift shops, individuals and the Guilford Industries for the Blind, Greensboro.

The department is indebted to several industries for their generous donations of raw materials, some of these are Tomlinsons of High Point, The American Thread Company, hosiery mills and



Home Industries Client Produces Saleable Articles after Training



1—Client Given Training and Equipment Operates Own Shop 2—Home Industries Counselor Collects Articles to be Sold

cotton gins. These donations have enabled us to make many attractive and unusual items and pay the workers a higher rate for their work, since there was no cost for materials. One of the home industries counselors was able to pay a profit-sharing bonus of \$345.00 to twenty blind workers.

It is impossible to give an accurate total earnings of the employed home bound blind in Home Industries work because many of them have become so proficient in their crafts and skills that they have been able to develop their own sales outlets and market their own products. The usual procedure is for the home industries counselor to go to the homes and pick up the finished articles, pay the worker and then sell the articles at some later date. Some years ago, the North Carolina State Association provided a revolving fund so that the workers could be paid when articles were picked up. This revolving fund provided by the Association has been a wonderful blessing for home bound workers, since they do not have to wait until their articles are sold to receive their money. There never was a fund for this purpose in the Rehabilitation budget.

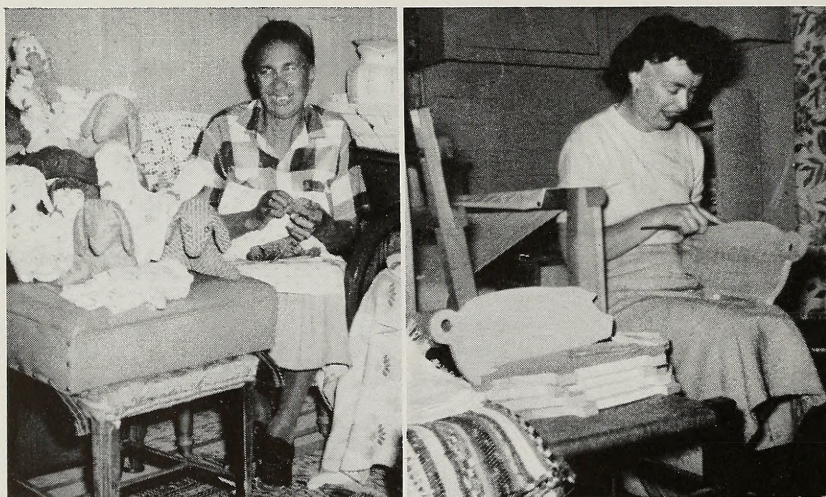
Home Industries work provides many persons opportunities to use their creative skills and abilities and prevents them from dropping into the sea of idleness which carries its own destruction.

WORKSHOPS

LAURA E. MERCHANT

Supervisor of Workshops and Home Industries

The five workshops employed 99 blind persons during the current



Home Industries Clients Produce Stuffed Toys and "Pig" Cutting Boards for Sale

biennium. These workers received average weekly wages of \$26.89 and a Christmas bonus of \$8,488.48 or an average of \$85.64 per person. Fringe benefits include paid vacation, sick leave, hospital insurance, Social Security and group life insurance.

Production has increased in all workshops and all are participating to some extent in Federal orders, allocated through the National Industries for the Blind.

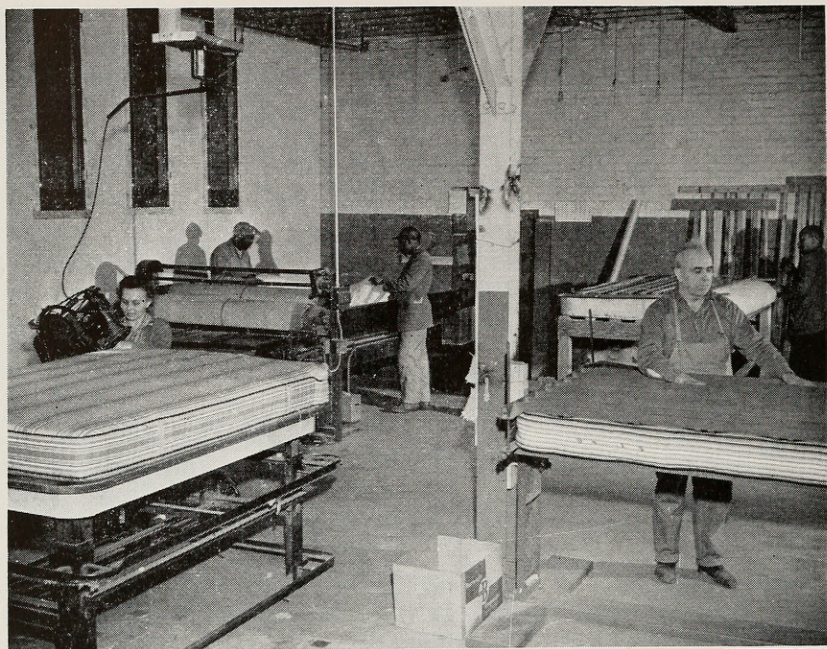
The direct management of the Industries for the Blind, Winston-Salem, has been assumed by the Goodwill Industries. It was moved from 1010 N. Liberty Street to a fireproof building at 2308 N. Liberty Street which provided much more space, better working conditions and possibilities for employing more blind workers.

These five supervised workshops provide training and employment for many blind persons who could not find employment otherwise. However, some of these shop workers with the training and experience gained in shop work are enabled to go into private employment or into businesses of their own.

The five workshops have modern equipment comparable to that in other private industries. This equipment was furnished by the State Commission for the Blind.



Sale of Articles Made by Home Bound Blind, Sponsored by Leaksville Lions Club



Scenes from the Industries for the Blind, Winston-Salem in Their New and Enlarged Working Facilities

NORTH CAROLINA BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE BLIND

W. J. STRICKLAND, *Supervisor*

Pursuant to the law which placed upon the Commission the responsibility for maintaining employment opportunities for blind individuals who are able to work but unable to find placement in outside employment, the Commission established by resolution an auxiliary division known as The Bureau of Employment for the Blind. The advisory body of this Bureau is made up of business men who have had experience in the field of merchandising and who advise the Commission on policies, rules, regulations and practices which should be established and observed in the operation of a successful business enterprise program.

The function of the Bureau is to accept blind and visually handicapped persons for training and placement in types of businesses found to be suitable for the employment of visually impaired people. During the training period, the trainee is taught merchandising, displaying, buying and selling techniques and record keeping. When the blind person has developed a reasonable proficiency in the fundamentals of merchandising operations, he is given an opportunity for employment either with the Bureau or placed as an independent merchant by the Rehabilitation Division of the Commission for the Blind. During this biennial, 39 blind and/or visually handicapped persons were accepted for training by the Bureau and 32 of these persons successfully completed training and were employed by the Bureau. The Bureau is a non-profit organization, operated solely to provide employment for visually handicapped persons. All earnings, after deducting operating expenses, are paid to the operators.

Recent amendments to the Federal Rehabilitation Act and the increased appropriation of Federal funds made it possible for the Bureau to broaden the scope and basis of its program. For the first time the Bureau was able to offer large industrial plants a hot food service for plant employees. The Bureau now operates food service units in 42 North Carolina industrial plants with pay rolls ranging from 200 persons in the smaller plants to 1,700 in the largest plant. The Bureau units in industrial plants are usually operated within the framework of a mutual agreement wherein the industrial plant provides free space and utilities, and the Bureau furnishes the necessary equipment to provide an adequate food service and assumes full responsibility for its operation. During this biennium, 25 stands were opened in industrial plants and office buildings.

The Congress of the United States is convinced that a supervised type of vending stand program is the best method of providing services to the general public and assuring employment to blind persons. At the close of the biennial period June 30, 1958, the Bureau was operating 91 stands, employing 93 blind operators at

an average weekly salary of \$33.50 During this biennium the earnings of blind operators totaled \$302,144.38. In addition to these earnings, the Bureau provided its blind operators the following fringe benefits: paid vacations, accumulative sick leave, hospital insurance coverage, Unemployment Compensation, Workmen's Compensation and Social Security coverage. The Bureau, through group insurance, is able to overcome the prohibitive life insurance rate charged blind people and offers its operators the opportunity to secure life insurance at a low group premium rate.

Due to the success of established vending machine routes, these routes being established in locations not feasible for an attendant type service, it was possible this biennium to pay our operators \$9,578.38 as a bonus. These bonus payments were paid on a "length of service" basis ranging from \$40.00 for employees of less than a year's service to \$200.00 for employees with more than 10 years' service.

The members of the Commission for the Blind and the members of the Bureau of Employment for the Blind express their appreciation to the hundreds of Lions Clubs, the North Carolina State Association for the Blind, the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, the General Services Division of North Carolina, and other state, county and municipal officials, labor and management and thousands of interested citizens for their cooperation in making the Commission's Vending Stand Program a success.



Stand in State Office Building



1—Food Units, Shallcross Mfg. Co. Selma 2—Food Units, Kellogg Switchboard Supply Co., Raleigh 3—P. O. Stand, Wilmington, N. C.

ASSISTANCE AND CO-OPERATION FROM OTHER AGENCIES, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

The data presented in this report has shown the assistance and co-operation received by the North Carolina State Commission for the Blind from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the County Boards of Commissioners and County Welfare Departments, the Lions Clubs and the North Carolina State Association for the Blind. It should again be emphasized that the blind people of North Carolina have reaped the benefits of this interest and assistance enabling the Commission to expand its services to the blind.

There are other groups and individuals who have greatly contributed to the activities in work for the blind. The majority of these have already been mentioned elsewhere but because of the quantity of the contribution recognition is again given:

EYE PHYSICIANS—North Carolina is most fortunate in having eye physicians located in the various sections of the State who are giving unsparingly of their time and skill to prevent blindness, and wherever possible to conserve sight and to restore vision. These eye physicians give to the needy cases recommended to their care the same highly skilled, professional services received by private patients. Without the very fine co-operation and unselfishness of these eye physicians, it would be impossible to have a program of prevention in North Carolina. The Commission is also indebted to the many private physicians who give treatment to persons referred for general medical attention by the eye physicians. Since the eye is often called "a thermometer to bodily conditions," many eye difficulties of patients are the result of disease or abnormal conditions in other parts of the body. A large number of indigent persons with defective vision coming under the care of the Commission have diseases of the blood vessels, kidneys, brain or other parts of the body which are first discovered by eye physicians. Diseased tonsils and other bodily infections in children are often the cause of impaired vision. These conditions, if not detected by an eye physician and corrected, may weaken the efficiency not only of the eye but of other vital organs of the body.

OTHER AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS

The State Federation of Women's Clubs has taken work for the blind as one of its major projects. Individual Club women are providing personal services to blind people as a part of their

general program. The Junior Women's Clubs and the Lions Auxiliary are most active in work for the blind.

The State Department of Public Welfare, the State Department of Public Instruction, the State Board of Health, the county schools and health officials, the Department of Conservation and Development, Chambers of Commerce, the local private welfare agencies and hospitals have given valuable assistance in the development of services for the blind.

The State School for the Blind has cooperated splendidly with the Commission in the development of a joint program.

Rotary, Kiwanis, American Business Men's Clubs, the Variety Clubs, Exchange Clubs, P. T. A's and other organizations have participated in the work for the blind program on a community level.

The following organizations outside the State have aided the Commission in the development of its work: The American Foundation for the Blind, the National Industries for the Blind, the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, The Seeing Eye, Inc. and the National Rehabilitation Association.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The preceding report of the work of the Commission has presented a brief review of the services provided for the blind and visually handicapped of North Carolina during the past biennium. This report also calls attention to some of the unmet needs.

REQUESTED INCREASES IN APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 1959-60 AND 1960-61

The members of the North Carolina State Commission for the Blind appreciate the difficult problems of state financing confronting the Advisory Budget Commission. The Commission is equally aware that it is responsible under law for administering all governmentally sponsored services for the blind citizens of our State. The budget request represents an increase over funds previously appropriated; yet, the funds requested will provide solely for urgently needed services. Only the basic needs of the blind have been included in the budget. The following increases are necessary to meet the minimum needs of the blind now known to the Commission:

First,

\$27,300 additional State funds are requested for the first year of the biennium and \$35,700 for the second year of the biennium to provide direct relief to the needy blind.

These additional State funds will enable the Commission to pay grants to 5,200 needy blind people for the first year of the biennium and 5,300 for the second year of the biennium at an average monthly grant of \$46.00.

Second,

\$50,000 State funds are requested for each year of the biennium to provide hospitalization for Aid to the Blind recipients. A program of hospitalization for Aid to the Blind recipients was initiated July 1, 1957, financed with funds secured from Lions Clubs and the North Carolina State Association for the Blind, and matched with Federal funds which became available because of amendments to the Social Security Act. For several years, a similar program has been in operation in the Department of Public Welfare for other public assistance categories with matching funds supplied by State appropriation. Contrary to law, eligible Aid to the Blind recipients have been carried on Old Age Assistance rolls because hospital pool funds were available for hospitalization required by these aged persons. In order to meet its legal responsibility, the Commission, after careful planning, began a cautious and modest program of hospitalization with matching funds secured from the North Carolina State Association for the Blind. This program provided hospitalization for the first time for eligible Aid to the Blind recipients. Expenditures for the month of January 1958 exceeded \$6,000.00. The Directors of the North Carolina State Association for the Blind feel that they no longer can assume the financial burden of this program. The Commission believes that the State would want to appropriate matching funds to provide hospitalization for Aid to the Blind recipients for the same reasons that the State has in the past, and is at the present, appropriating matching funds to provide hospitalization for recipients in other public assistance categories such as Old Age Assistance, Aid to Dependent Children, and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled. A State appropriation for hospitalization will enable the Commission to meet its legal responsibilities in this service area.

Third,

\$5,000 State funds are requested for each year of the biennium to provide Boarding Home Care for non-family Aid to the Blind recipients. The Commission requested \$3,000 for each year of the 1957-59 biennium for this purpose; but this request was denied. Since the need for this service was imperative, the Commission secured private funds. These funds are no longer available because the donors feel this obligation should be assumed by the State in the same way the State assumes this responsibility for other public assistance categories. The problem of Boarding Home Care for non-family Aid to the Blind recipients is made more

acute by the simple fact that these persons are blind. Furthermore, the State has recognized the need for supplementing Boarding Home Care for non-family recipients in all other public assistance categories.

Fourth,

\$7,799 additional State funds are requested for each year of the biennium to provide salaries for one Stenographer-Clerk I in each of the five District Offices, and one Stenographer-Clerk II in one District Office. The assignment of field staff members to District Offices in our greatly expanded program in all phases of service for the blind has resulted in a very critical need for additional clerical staff. We have five professional staff members in each District Office and only one secretary. This situation is administratively and economically unsound because it requires professional staff members to neglect direct services to needy people and devote this time to clerical work which can be done more efficiently and economically by trained clerical workers. Co-operating Federal agencies have repeatedly urged that this situation be corrected, and have backed up their recommendations with available matching funds. *The Commission has not had an additional clerical employee since 1953.* To maintain our present level of increased services to blind people, it is imperative that this weakness in our program be corrected.

Fifth,

\$3,568 State funds are requested for each year of the biennium to provide Salary and Travel for a Rehabilitation Counselor III and a Rehabilitation Counselor II. The Federal Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, which provides 70% of the required funds, has repeatedly urged the Commission to employ a Counselor III to serve as an assistant to the Chief of Rehabilitation Services. This Counselor III would make it possible for the Chief of Rehabilitation Services to supervise personnel in the Commission's six District Offices - adequate supervision of Field Staff is a requirement of the Federal Office of Rehabilitation. The Commission's Rehabilitation Caseload is far above the national average, The desk work entailed by this heavy caseload prohibits the Chief of Rehabilitation Services, who does not have an assistant, from doing adequate field staff supervision in the six District Offices. Lack of field staff supervision is not only economically unsound, but deprives eligible clients of efficient services.

For the past ten years the Commission for the Blind has led the nation in the number of visually handicapped people rehabilitated into employment. This achievement has been possible to a great extent because our blind people have been put to work in "made employment", such as sheltered workshops and controlled vending stands. If the Commis-

sion is to continue its job placement program, work must be found for blind people in industry and in competitive jobs. The Commission is aware that one of its greatest weaknesses in the State Rehabilitation Program is the small number of blind persons employed in industry. The employment of a Rehabilitation Counselor II, who will work as a placement officer on a State-wide basis, can do much to overcome our stalemate in industrial employment.

Sixth,

\$4,325 additional State funds for the first year of the biennium, and \$6,660 for the second year of the biennium are requested to provide Merit Salary Increments.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

First - Multi-Purpose Building, Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, Butner, North Carolina

\$139,500 additional funds are required to provide a multi-purpose building for the rehabilitation Center for the Blind, Butner, North Carolina. The following needs can be met with such a multi-purpose building:

1. *Shortage of Classrooms—*

Owing to the lack of classroom facilities, some classes are being held in the auditorium, in staff personnel offices, in a dormitory basement, and in other undesirable quarters which are not designed for teaching purposes and which do not have required equipment. For example, classes in crafts are being held in the basement of the white men's dormitory. Because of excess dampness, craft equipment and materials are damaged by mildew. Furthermore, weather conditions cancel many classes that have to be scheduled in makeshift quarters. Psychological testing, which is one of the most important aids to successful rehabilitation, is now done in the library. During psychological testing periods, the library must be closed to students.

2. *Physical Therapy—*

One of the basic needs in the adjustment process to blindness is physical therapy. Blindness often destroys muscular coordination and balance, and greatly restricts mobility and body movements. To compensate for the loss of vision, a blind person must be taught to develop his other senses.

Physical therapy facilities are required to do a competent job in the adjustment process to blindness in much the same manner that "educational toys" are used in the training of young children. It is no exaggeration to state that a newly blinded adult can be compared with a young child learning to walk, to eat and to adjust himself into his environment.

3. *Group Therapy and Community Activities—*

A logical parallel can be drawn between the mental patient who is placed in a "Half-Way House" in order to prepare him to resume his place in society and the bewildered blind-adult who must learn to live with his blindness before he can take part in any community life. Group therapy and community activities are a vital part of the training process "on the road back". The Rehabilitation Center enjoys the support of the community and groups and organizations from nearby towns. Such community affairs designed for the benefit of our blind students must be held outdoors and are frequently cancelled because of inclement weather. For example, the North Carolina Prison Band often furnishes music for student dances and parties. The National Guard Unit furnishes a low bed truck which the band uses as a platform. The dances and parties are held on the black top pavement behind the Center. The social value of this type of activity is extremely important in the adjustment process. Students look forward to these occasions. A cancelled dance because of rain is most disappointing.

A gym-torium would provide space to increase community activities and insure group therapy for our students.

4. *Travel—*

One of the crippling handicaps caused by blindness is the inability of a newly blinded adult to travel by himself. Indoor travel within small rooms, in halls and on stairways is easily learned because the nearness of walls gives the student a feeling of security. Outdoor travel is more difficult but even more important. A gym-torium would provide space to teach simulated outside travel when weather conditions prohibit outside training.

Second - Two Dormitory Wings (8 Men Each), Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, Butner, N. C.

Two dormitory wings at the North Carolina Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, wings to be extension of existing dormitories, each wing to contain 4 rooms to house 2 men each. Present capacity cannot handle current applications for training. Immediate need is for dormitory space for 8 additional white men and 8 additional Negro men.

Early training for newly blinded adults saves time and money. Any appreciable delay in the initiation of adjustment training makes the job of rehabilitation just that much more difficult. For the past eight years we have had a waiting list of male students, both white and Negro.

The Federal Congress has demonstrated its interest in adjustment training for blind people and has made available Federal funds on a matching basis to expand Rehabilitation facilities

such as additional dormitory space. The present Federal matching formula for North Carolina is 70% Federal and 30% State. Federal funds are *not available* to build separate buildings at a Rehabilitation facility such as ours. They *are available* for the "extension and expansion" of an existing building. This is the reason that Federal matching funds are available to build the extension of two dormitory wings and are not available to construct the Multi-Purpose building.

Total cost of dormitory wings including equipment is \$38,300. Federal funds available for this purpose \$26,800. State funds required \$11,500.

APPENDIX I
SOCIAL SERVICE DIVISION

Data by geographical regions and counties concerning the 11,239 blind persons on biennial census report for the period July 1 1956 through June 30, 1958.

Table No. 1. Data by Geographical Regions and Counties Concerning Blind Persons
Biennial Census Report For the Period—July 1, 1956—June 30, 1958

STATE GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS AND COUNTIES	Total Number Blind	RACE			SEX		PRESENT AGE										DEGREE OF BLINDNESS		Age at onset of blindness							Source of Support	
		White	Negro	Indian	Male	Female	5-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	Unknown	Total	Blind one eye, partial vision other	Partial vision both eyes	5-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	Unknown	Own earnings, own earnings & A. B. and own earnings and earnings of other persons	A. B. and earnings of other persons	Other type of public and/or private aid.	
North Carolina Grand Total	11,229	8,873	4,312	64	2,614	5,625	176	832	929	1,536	2,615	3,601	3,448	2,951	2,633	684	215	703	672	1,252	2,366	3,167	2,071	3,524	4,491	11,641	
Highland Region	1,619	1,412	197	12	829	790	28	125	148	228	430	554	516	361	311	947	460	89	101	185	294	388	112	642	865	111	
Allegany	35	32	3	0	19	17	0	3	1	2	7	23	0	4	1	18	8	4	0	3	8	13	0	3	21	6	
Ashe	47	44	3	0	26	21	0	3	1	0	4	20	13	0	3	19	24	6	2	4	6	10	1	4	34	6	
Avery	37	37	0	0	36	1	0	1	3	5	6	13	0	2	8	17	7	2	0	5	2	5	0	14	5		
Burcombe	318	228	90	0	152	166	8	17	14	52	98	127	4	302	36	138	90	22	28	40	79	44	2	149	136		
Burke	104	92	12	0	56	59	0	9	9	17	32	35	2	26	18	67	37	2	0	17	20	22	1	76	65		
Caldwell	116	104	12	0	60	56	8	21	8	10	22	44	0	25	12	68	52	6	3	10	17	21	1	38	71		
Cherokee	70	64	6	0	37	33	3	4	3	0	19	34	0	11	14	45	22	0	3	3	18	26	1	34	83	3	
Clay	28	28	0	0	16	12	3	4	2	5	4	12	0	5	17	10	1	1	1	6	9	1	14	11	3		
Graham	59	54	5	0	34	11	3	2	2	4	2	12	0	5	16	4	3	1	3	5	9	8	8	15	2		
Haywood	85	81	4	0	38	45	1	11	3	7	22	35	1	19	15	60	20	1	7	11	9	28	5	34	29	10	
Henderson	91	72	19	0	37	54	3	5	0	18	44	9	28	28	57	17	3	5	0	15	27	17	27	38	44	9	
Johnson	41	34	7	0	17	24	1	2	0	4	10	24	0	4	5	34	6	2	1	2	4	20	4	19	19	3	
Macon	49	44	5	0	24	15	1	3	8	6	14	15	0	5	4	20	17	0	2	7	12	12	0	38	26	6	
Madison	51	51	0	0	22	29	1	2	4	17	24	18	1	14	7	48	17	4	4	9	11	17	5	26	29	6	
McDowell	49	45	4	0	30	0	1	2	3	6	6	24	0	10	11	28	16	1	9	0	9	16	0	36	19	4	
Mitchell	29	29	0	0	15	14	0	2	5	5	7	18	0	3	4	17	1	2	1	3	4	15	2	6	17	2	
Polk	28	22	6	0	12	16	0	3	1	0	13	12	0	8	9	10	1	1	1	8	18	2	13	18	4		
Rutherford	109	88	21	0	49	61	1	1	17	18	33	42	1	24	15	63	37	11	6	8	13	22	32	43	47	14	
Swain	49	40	9	0	27	22	0	4	4	7	7	25	0	7	14	28	14	4	2	1	8	19	1	32	24	7	
Transylvania	28	24	4	0	9	19	0	4	4	3	5	11	0	8	1	19	2	1	3	2	11	3	0	9	17	3	
Watauga	55	54	1	0	37	18	2	4	7	18	29	15	1	8	12	43	25	4	5	8	8	10	4	23	35	7	
Wilkes	177	150	27	0	64	63	2	12	21	24	28	57	3	20	29	74	32	18	9	22	24	19	3	37	74	29	
Yancey	34	34	0	0	21	15	0	2	0	6	5	21	2	6	9	27	8	1	3	1	9	10	4	20	8	0	
Piedmont Region	9,108	7,145	1,953	4	4,250	4,855	131	529	402	746	1,219	2,059	42	915	938	2,857	18,631	271	212	615	1,051	1,408	1,417	2,994	642		
Alamance	125	99	26	0	67	52	7	11	3	15	37	52	0	39	22	65	48	7	14	17	30	24	5	53	55	31	
Alexander	27	23	4	0	14	13	0	2	2	4	4	14	1	4	7	18	6	2	2	5	5	2	9	20	2		
Anson	118	104	14	0	61	54	0	14	5	11	24	69	1	20	22	68	25	11	4	8	17	50	0	44	55	16	
Cabarrus	144	106	38	0	67	77	4	8	4	14	42	86	6	20	21	102	22	4	6	20	31	38	7	30	56	18	
Cassell	50	20	30	0	10	20	8	4	6	3	19	23	0	10	4	36	15	2	1	5	11	12	0	24	35	7	
Catawba	162	111	51	0	69	41	2	6	3	15	21	46	3	17	26	65	24	6	7	19	29	21	5	27	67	8	
Chatham	63	56	7	0	35	28	0	5	8	17	10	23	0	12	14	37	23	4	5	5	17	13	0	14	44	3	
Cleveland	152	94	58	0	73	79	0	3	8	23	35	77	1	28	25	99	31	3	8	23	35	50	9	31	184	17	
Davidson	178	144	34	0	75	94	3	15	12	12	33	169	3	24	42	118	46	10	8	24	32	92	7	30	125	13	
Davie	44	33	11	0	24	20	0	1	4	7	23	2	5	9	36	5	1	2	2	1	22	3	7	15	2		
Durham	357	192	166	0	163	190	4	26	32	51	82	162	0	55	57	219	112	19	26	35	55	107	0	146	150	67	
Forsyth	247	224	23	0	164	205	8	33	24	110	130	0	70	28	213	84	13	35	67	74	89	6	114	205	48		
Franklin	79	37	42	0	42	31	2	4	16	37	0	20	22	41	15	2	8	9	9	28	22	0	32	30	1		
Gaston	297	151	146	0	103	106	1	12	13	27	57	89	8	40	131	132	65	5	12	24	48	64	5	44	140	73	
Granville	70	24	46	0	39	31	0	7	5	5	33	28	0	15	7	48	79	6	5	5	12	29	0	22	35	13	
Guilford	444	305	139	0	242	222	9	29	48	84	111	119	3	81	64	249	116	14	23	70	143	74	10	163	165	11	
Irwin	129	94	35	0	61	68	2	18	12	14	31	60	0	10	36	74	38	13	4	20	26	34	0	32	35	13	
Lee	68	33	35	0	32	36	1	10	6	4	12	34	0	5	11	62	20	0	0	4	15	24	0	16	47	6	
Lincoln	71	55	16	0	44	27	1	4	8	19	18	38	0	9	16	47	14	2	3	13	3	31	0	15	47	9	
Mecklenburg	664	244	420	0	234	430	2	36	39	65	145	155	5	77	55	239	124	21	32	63	131	124	4	126	205	58	
Montgomery	63	46	17	0	23	26	0	3	5	7	15	27	0	6	11	46	14	7	0	3	18	29	0	14	45	3	
Moores	136	64	72	0	60	76	2	13	13	12	37	53	0	20	23	69	48	7	7	10	21	36	0	29	92	4	
Orange	41	32	9	0	41	41	2	6	3	12	18	42	0	16	13	53	23	5	2	8	16	28	0	27	48	7	
Person	45	21	24	0	21	24	8	3	8	5	7	20	0	12	4	31	13	3	2	12	3	15	0	13	27	0	
Randolph	123	26	33	0	58	65	14	12	19	31	41	0	9	32	33	24	11	9	14	32	43	0	14	160	7		
Richmond	134	69	45	0	82	72	1	6	8	27	35	57	0	22	25	26	32	3	7	13	22	38	4	15	111	8	
Rockingham	158	119	42	0	72	83	0	17	17	31	42	57	0	43	24	53	48	2	14	23	26	34	3	50	63	23	
Rowan	165	116	50	0	88	77	4	13	10	16	30	52	2	16	25	115	54	11	12	16	30	66	6	35	56	20	
Stately	48	46	29	0	43	43	1	7	8	3	29	40	1	11	21	54	24	5	8	7							

APPENDIX II
MEDICAL DIVISION

Data on the 51,422 indigent persons examined by Eye Physicians during the past biennium.

N. C. COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND MEDICAL CARE PROGRAM STATISTICS 1997

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APPENDIX III
ACCOUNTING DIVISION

Budgetary Expenditures of the Commission during the Bien-
nium July 1, 1956 through June 30, 1958.

EXPENDITURES FOR 1956-57 AND 1957-58
CHAPTER 53, PUBLIC LAWS OF 1935, CODE 326
CHAPTER 124, PUBLIC LAWS OF 1937

Purposes and/or Objects	Expenditures for 1956-57	Expenditures for 1957-58
I. ADMINISTRATION		
101 Salary-Executive Secretary -----	\$ 8,910.00	\$ 9,500.00
102 Salaries & Wages-Staff -----	65,118.00	72,146.49
103 Expense of Commission -----	379.62	394.40
104 Supplies & Materials -----	1,795.54	2,796.65
105 Postage, Tel. & Tel. -----	5,000.00	5,500.00
106 Travel Expense -----	9,634.00	11,638.95
107 Printing & Binding -----	2,250.00	2,493.09
108 Repairs & Alterations -----	797.21	1,491.18
109 General Expense -----	36.20	49.85
110 Insurance & Bonding -----		
111 Equipment -----	1,492.65	3,451.61
112 Merit System Expense -----	920.08	994.31
113 Office Rent -----	3,102.00	3,585.50
114 Retirement System -----	9,146.09	10,308.86
TOTAL -----	\$ 108,581.39	\$ 124,350.89
II. AID TO THE BLIND ADMINISTRATION		
201 Salaries & Wages -----	\$ 46,166.99	\$ 52,390.70
202 Travel Expense -----	8,662.92	7,937.13
203 Staff Development & Training -----		625.00
TOTAL -----	\$ 54,829.91	\$ 60,952.83
III. REHABILITATION SERVICES		
301 Salaries & Wages -----	\$ 8,834.91	\$ 9,690.88
302 Travel Expense -----	1,994.37	1,559.64
303 Expense of Board Members -----		
Bureau Emp. for the Blind -----	298.03	300.00
TOTAL -----	\$ 11,127.31	\$ 11,550.52
IV. VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE & PLACEMENT SERVICES		
401 Salaries & Wages -----	\$ 83,774.20	\$ 95,658.98
402 Travel Expense -----	20,837.97	20,344.09
TOTAL -----	\$ 104,612.17	\$ 116,003.07
V. PAYMENTS TO NEEDY BLIND		
501 County -----	\$ 390,270.75	\$ 396,431.75
502 Federal -----	1,786,527.50	1,848,018.00
503 State -----	390,371.25	396,374.25
TOTAL -----	\$2,567,169.50	\$2,640,824.00

VI. CASE SERVICES

601 Examinations -----	\$ 50,997.38	\$ 53,499.72
602 Treatment -----	58,996.45	61,694.10
603 Prosthetic Appliances -----	89,992.52	111,864.95
604 Hospitalization -----	143,199.96	189,635.89
605 Training Expense -----	62,713.78	64,757.72
606 Training Supplies -----	19,921.71	19,997.51
607 Maintenance -----	69,385.28	74,989.33
608 Transportation -----	7,199.46	8,362.62
609 Placement Equipment -----	56,374.98	66,956.36
TOTAL -----	\$ 558,781.52	\$ 651,758.20

VII. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

701 Salaries & Wages -----	\$ 127,132.04	\$ 131,258.25
702 Travel Expense -----	61,138.41	55,367.93
703 Federal Administration		
Direct to Counties -----	46,298.64	46,625.00
TOTAL -----	\$ 234,569.09	\$ 233,251.18

VIII. COUNTY EQUALIZATION FUND

801 County Equalization Fund -----	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
TOTAL -----	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00

IX. PRECONDITIONING CENTER

901 Supplies & Materials -----	\$ 21,476.82	\$ 20,994.78
902 Equipment -----	5,776.86	3,943.71
903 Heat, Lights, & Water -----	9,655.45	10,741.96
904 Repairs & Alterations -----		5000.00
TOTAL -----	\$ 36,909.13	\$ 40,680.45

X. WORKSHOPS

1001 Equipment -----	\$ 29,929.37	\$ 29,886.67
TOTAL -----	\$ 29,929.37	\$ 29,886.67

XI. MERIT SALARY INGREMENTS

VII. CONTRACTUAL SERVICES -----	\$ 9,430.00	\$ 10,870.00
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VIII. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION -----		\$ 150.00
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XIV. ADDITIONS & BETTERMENTS

1401 Repairs, Renovations & Extensions-Rehab. Center -----	\$ 63,523.00	
1402 Repairs, Renovations & Extensions-Workshops -----	156,611.83	
TOTAL -----	\$ 220,134.83	

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS -----	\$3,948,074.22	\$3,932,277.81
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LESS: ESTIMATED RECEIPTS -----	\$3,082,148.18	\$3,076,627.94
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APPROPRIATION -----	\$ 865,926.04	\$ 855,649.87
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